



STATEMENT

Is it going to take a global environmental crisis?

In 21st century everyone solves some problems. International organizations, governments and individuals deal with many issues every day. The key to handle it successfully is to set priorities. It is necessary to choose the most serious task and put the best effort to it. Importance is very deep expression. For each subject it means something different. But in the global world and under contemporary climate conditions, all players participating in global economy agree that climate changes and environment as a whole should be discussed on one of the first places at hierarchy of global issues. Environmental challenges like climate changes, preserving biodiversity and energy efficiency, are the most urgent questions, which should not wait any longer to be left aside. Only by solving mentioned problems can the other, social, political and economic issues, be resolved.

Emissions reduction

Since 2006, China has been the top emitter of carbon dioxide emissions but until this year, it was the USA. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is an international environmental [treaty](#) produced at the [United Nations](#) Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The objective of the treaty is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous [anthropogenic](#) interference with the climate system. The treaty is not considered as legally binding and contains no enforcement mechanism- instead of setting emission limits for the countries, it provides updates (protocols) that define mandatory emission limits. The main update is Kyoto protocol.

The USA is a party of Annex II. countries which are the sub-group of Annex I. countries. These have committed to reduce their emission levels of greenhouse gasses to targets that are mainly set below their 1990 levels. Annex II. countries includes the OECD members and excludes those that were [economies in transition](#) in 1992. They are developed countries which pay for costs of developing countries. So the next aim, except elaborating the cooperation strategy, is to find an equitable mechanism which would help both, developing and developed countries. Developing countries are not required to reduce emission levels unless developed



countries supply enough funding and technology. So the role of the developed countries should be improving technology and make effort to be sufficient source for the developing countries. The world is connected and we should be able to make benefits rather from advantages than from disadvantages of globalization.

According to the Copenhagen Conference (taking place in December 2009) USA and other Annex I countries recognize that the increase in global temperature should be below 2 degrees Celsius. UNFCCC countries agreed that the time for peaking of global and national emissions will be longer in developing countries, but a low-emission strategy is indispensable for sustainable development. In the question of setting quantified economy-wide emissions targets for 2020, USA in Copenhagen Accord say that *“the pathway set forth in pending legislation would entail a 30% reduction in 2025 and a 42% reduction in 2030, in line with the goal to reduce emissions 83% by 2050.”*¹ They committed to decrease in 2020 production of CO2 emissions by 17% compared with 2005.

Technology transfer mechanism

Based on Copenhagen Accord participating countries decided *“to establish a Technology Mechanism to accelerate technology development and transfer in support of action on adaptation and mitigation that will be guided by a country driven approach and be based on national circumstances and priorities.”*²

The aim is to transfer new technologies from the developed countries to the developing, though. So the key is the cooperation between these “two worlds.” As far as the Clean Development Mechanism is concerned, developing countries support it. The USA demands for a market mechanism similar to the Joint Implementation scheme but with the developing countries. Developed countries shall provide sustainable technology, financial resources and capacity building to implement adaptation action in developing countries.

¹ Report of the Conference of the Parties on its fifteenth session, held in Copenhagen from 7 to 19 December 2009- Appendix I- Quantified Economy-wide emissions targets for 2020, pg.8

² Copenhagen Accord, pg. 7, item 11



Reforestation

The next cause of climate change and global warming as well is probably the deforestation and forest degradation. Everyone approves that this problem should be solved because it concerns all participants who are interested in sustainable development.

The USA provide 100 billion dollars as financial climate aid for developing countries to install clean energy technologies. U.S. aid is tied to monitoring, information and verification of handling with money in third countries. UN-REDD programme or Forest Investment programme have their own budgets and except money they provide information, give advice and share experience with developing countries. The question is, if this is a sufficient method of participating developed countries on dropping deforestation practices in developing countries.

Biodiversity

All countries should cooperate and agree that sustaining of biodiversity is also one of the most significant global issues. Rapid environmental changes typically cause [extinctions](#). The number of species of plants, animals and microorganisms, the enormous diversity of genes in these species, the different ecosystems on the planet, such as deserts, rainforests and coral reefs are all part of a biologically diverse Earth.

Countries should deal with degradation of biodiversity and implement strategies and move them to national and transnational level. Hopefully, on the Cancun Conference in December 2010, countries will not ignore the problem called sustaining of the biodiversity, and find some common ground which would help to implement existing strategies to their future convention.

Water resources and energy efficiency

Countries should not take care only of those water resources which they have on their territory. The problem of water concerns every living organism. So the protection of water resources is an obvious phrase. We should find mechanisms and strategies to protect existing water resources and their purity.

The last problem which will be discussed in our section, but not in such large scale, is energy. Countries should use cleaner energy sources and try to find renewable energy. The U.S.



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Department of Energy develops renewable energy technologies, practices and product for homes. More than 42 thousands of American homes are participating in the program. The climate specific designs, super efficient walls, foundations, windows, and roofs, passive solar heating and cooling, solar thermal and solar electric systems, and etc. are proof that the USA tries to use newest technologies which are cleaner. Developed countries should at least give information and share experience with developing countries about using modern technologies and renewable sources of energy.



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